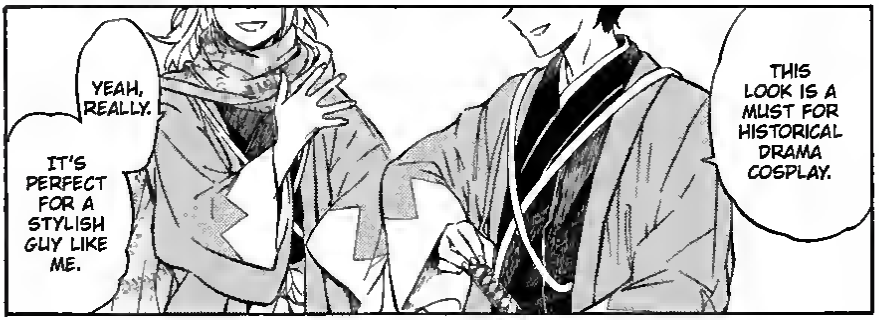
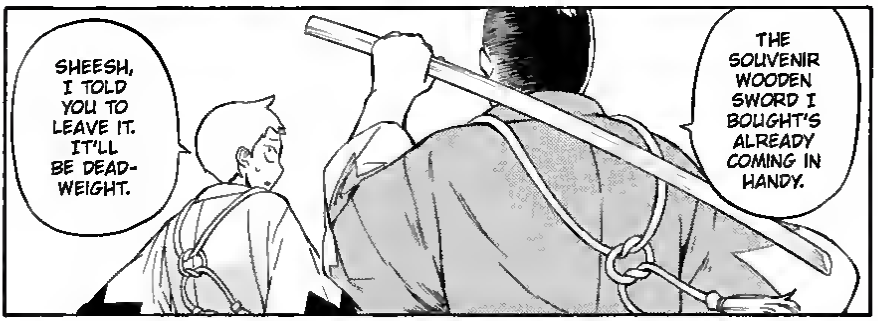
Handa-kun

CHAPTER 23

SATSUKI YOSHINO

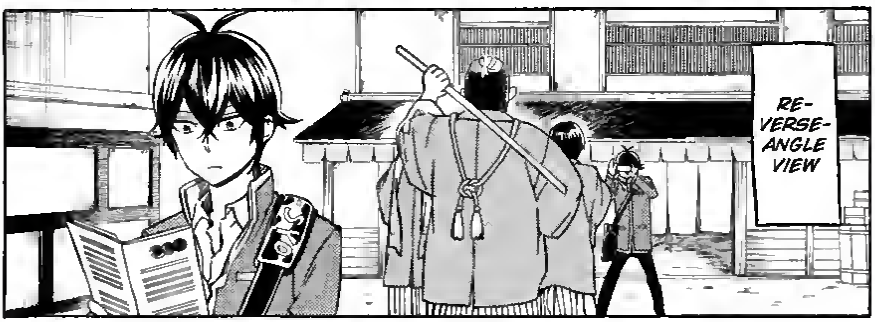
SIGN: UZUMASA CINEMA VILLAGE



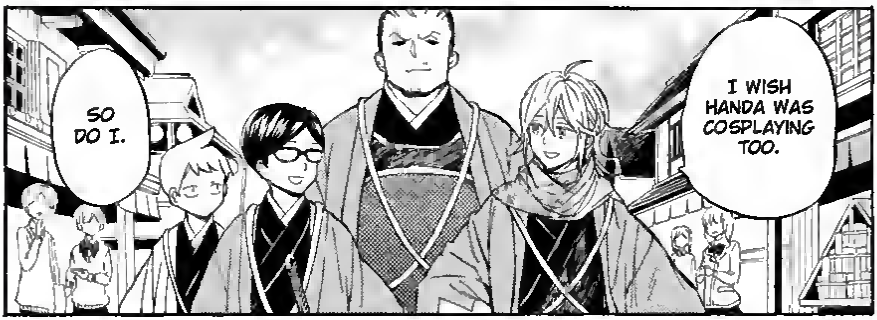


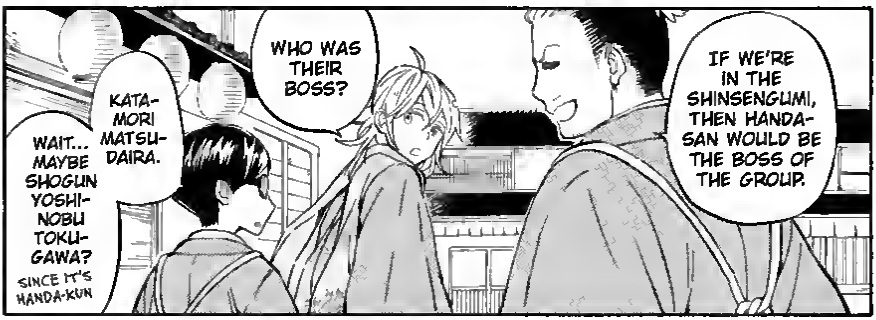
SIGN: GUARD

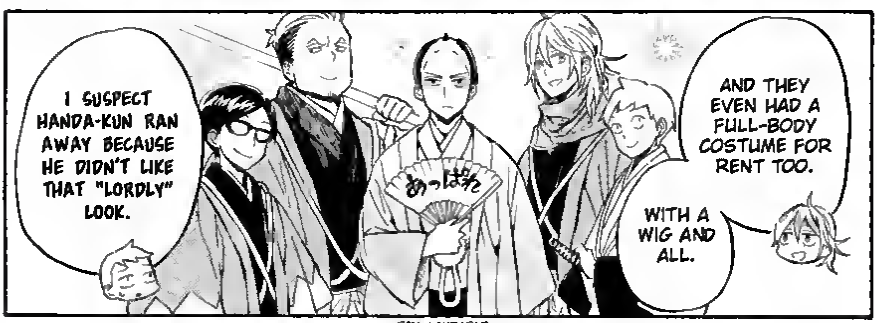
OKAY.
SAY, "HAN-DY!" (HANDA)
PASHA (FLASH)


RE-VERSE-ANGLE VIEW

SIGNS: BOATHOUSE, TEA




IF WE'RE IN THE SHINSENGUMI, THEN HANDA-SAN WOULD BE THE BOSS OF THE GROUP.
WHO WAS THEIR BOSS?
KATA-MORI MATSU-DAIRA.
WAIT... MAYBE SHOGUN YOSHI-NOBU TOKU-GAWA?
SINCE IT'S HANDA-KUN


AND THEY EVEN HAD A FULL-BODY COSTUME FOR RENT TOO.
WITH A WIG AND ALL.
I SUSPECT HANDA-KUN RAN AWAY BECAUSE HE DIDN'T LIKE THAT "LORDLY" LOOK.

FAN: LAUDABLE

YUKIO-KUN HERE EVEN SHARES A NAME WITH ISAMI KONDOU ...
...LEADER OF THE SHINSEN-GUMI.
THOUGH I DOUBT ANYONE WOULD EVER MISTAKE ME FOR THE HISTORICAL KONDOU...
YUKIO KONDOU
THEN, THROUGH MY HOT-GUY HERITAGE...
...I'LL BE SOUJI OKITA.
OKITA MAY HAVE THE IMAGE OF BEING A HOT GUY...
...BUT HE WAS ACTUALLY VERY HOMELY.
WHAA —!?
REALLY !?
THEN IT'S LIKE THEY SAY—
A BEAUTIFUL WAY OF LIFE GAINS BEAUTY IN THE RE-TELLING.
WELL... I GUESS SO.
THAT'S A NICE WAY TO PUT IT.

...I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED SOME GUY NOBODY KNOWS.
GREAT...
...AND TSUKKUN WILL BE SECOND-UNIT VICE-CAPTAIN KAI SHIMADA.
THEN, I'LL BE SHINPACHI NAGAKURA ...
HEY, HEY! ARE YOU THE SHIN-SENGUMI!?
IF YOU WANNA GIVE HIM THAT ROLE...
...LEAVE IT VACANT.
WHAT ABOUT TOSHI-ZOU HIJI-KATA?
MAYBE WE COULD HAVE DASH BE HIM?
WHITE SHIRTS!
THOSE OUTFITS ARE TOO GOOD FOR YOU.

YEAH, THEY'RE KINDA DRAB.
HEH-HA-HA-HA!
EXCLU-SIONIST PATRIOTS, PERHAPS?
THEY LOOK KINDA PLAIN TODAY.
THESE GUYS ONLY SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT RYOUMA.
NOW, RESTRAIN YOURSELF, JUST SO.
I WILL CLEANSE JAPAN, JUST SO!
NO, DON'T, TSUK-KUN!
HOW DARE YOU INSULT HANDA-SAN THE WAY YOU DID LAST NIGHT!
YOUR BAKUMATSU UPSTART THEATER ENDS NOW!
バコ
BAKOO (SOCK)
YOU'LL MAKE TROUBLE FOR GROUP LEADER HANDA-KUN!
YOU MADE HIM GROUP LEADER WITHOUT ASKING HIM THOUGH.
IF YOU CAUSE A PROBLEM, OUR GROUP WILL BEAR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBIL-ITY.

HA HAH!
HE DIDN'T LISTEN.
HA HA!
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT, GRAY-SCHOOL!
HE WHO STRIKES FIRST IS THE ONE WHO LOSES!
YOUR SCHOOL WILL GET IN TROUBLE TOO!
JUST YOU WAIT...

...THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A "WALK OF OLD EDO WITH RYOUMA SAKAMOTO" TOUR.
AROUND HERE, ABOUT NOW...

OH, GIRLS ARE GATHERING THERE.
THAT MUST BE IT.
SUCH CHA-RISMA!
HE'S A GENIUS!!
WELL-VERSED!
LOVE-LY!!
SEE, OVER THERE IS THE BRUSH SELLER.

SIGN: SNACKS

KYAH! KYAH!
NOW, TOWN GIRLS...
KYAH!
I'LL FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE TOUR.
AT A BIT OF A DISTANCE, SINCE GIRLS ARE SCARY.
KYAH!
...ON TO THE NEXT POINT OF INTEREST.

FOR NOW, WE'LL PRETEND WE DIDN'T SEE THAT...
...AND HAVE TSUKKUN WITHDRAW FROM OUR SCHOOL...
WHEW...
WHAT'LL WE DO, AIZAWA-KUN?
AH!
THAT WAS ALL A RUSE TO CRUSH HANDA FROM GRAY-SCHOOL.
YOU'RE TOO LATE.
SIGN. RAMEN
WHAT, YOU KNOW OF ME, JUNICHI AIZAWA-KUN?
...NAGA-MASA-KUN.
I BELIEVE YOU'RE ...
I'VE MEMORIZED THE NAMES OF EVERYONE WHO PLACED IN THE TOP ONE HUNDRED OF THE MOCK EXAM.
OF COURSE— WHY WOULDN'T I?

SOUICHI NAGAMASA ...
...ON THE LAST MOCK EXAM...
...YOU WERE 98TH PLACE.
N—
"NINETY-EIGHTH" ...?
...WAIT, THAT RANK'S KINDA IFFY.
HEH HEH.
I HAD THOUGHT THAT YOU, WHO ALWAYS PLACES FIRST, WOULD CONSIDER ME BENEATH NOTICE.
WELL, SINCE THOUSANDS TAKE THE MOCK EXAMS, I GUESS IT'S ON THE AMAZING SIDE.
TEST RANKS AREN'T EVERY-THING.
I LEARNED THAT FROM HANDA-KUN.
OH-HO...THAT IS A WISE MANNER OF THINKING.
HIS ATTITUDE AND WAY OF SPEAKING ARE ALL THAT'S GENIUS-LIKE ABOUT HIM...

AS YOU CAN TELL FROM OUR CHOICE OF EXCLUSIONIST PATRIOT ATTIRE...
...WE INTEND TO DEFEAT YOU...
...AND THEREBY DEFEND OUR EMPEROR FROM FOREIGN IMPURITY.
I SEE. THEN IT'S A PROCLAMATION OF WAR?
BY THE WAY...
...WHOSE ROLE ARE YOU PLAYING?
HEH HEH.
THE DAWN OF JAPAN IS NEAR, JUST SO!
YOU'RE RYOUMA TOO!?
DID THE WHITE SHIRTS ONLY LEARN ABOUT RYOUMA!?
SIGNS: RESTAURANT, DANGO
NOW THEN, I HAD HOPED WE COULD HAVE A DISCUSSION.
I'LL LEAVE THEM ALONE.
BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO DISCUSS.
AIZAWA-KUN CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM.

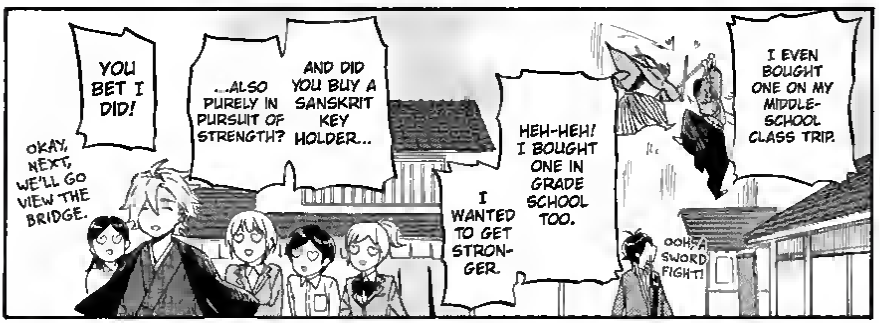
UH-OH... REO-KUN'S GOTTEN INVOLVED TOO.
松
SIGN: SHOES STRICTLY FORBIDDEN / LANTERNS: MATSU
UP CLOSE, I SEE YOU'RE GOOD AT DRESSING STYLISHLY.
DO YOU INTEND TO HAVE A FASHION SHOWDOWN WITH ME?
SIGH...
A MANNEQUIN-MATCHING FAKE MODEL LIKE YOU...
...IS BENEATH NOTICE.
"MANNEQUIN-MATCHING"!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
HE HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD.
DOKUN (BADUM)

I, UH...I ALWAYS...
...ATTAIN MY OWN FASHION, SEE.
I CAN EVEN WEAR SLIGHTLY OUT-THERE CLOTHING WELL.
THERE'S A KID AT GRAY-SCHOOL MUCH CUTER THAN THE LIKES OF YOU.
I CAME HERE TO MEET HIM.
HUH?
THAT KID IS ALL I'M INTERESTED IN.
AT THE GRAY-SCHOOL CULTURE FESTIVAL LAST YEAR, I SAW...
DON (BUMP)
...A LOVELY, ANDROGY-NOUS BOY...
...WHO I JUST COULDN'T THINK OF AS MALE.
TO THINK A BOY COULD BE CUTER THAN ANY GIRL!
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
IT WAS A SHOCK THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF MY LIFE.

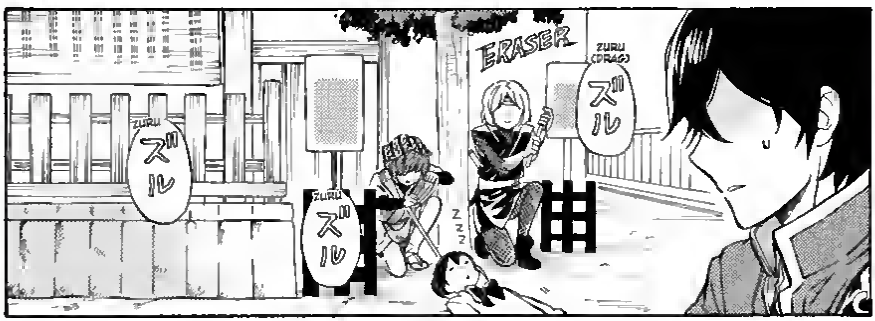
AKANE TSUTSUI-KUN...
HE IS MY GOD!
I JUST KNOW I COULD TALK WITH TSUTSUI-KUN.
WE'D CHAT ABOUT CUTE THINGS.
I WANT US TO SWAP BEAUTY TIPS AND VISIT HARAJUKU BOUTIQUES TOGETHER!
WHERE IS HE?
.....
TSU-TSUI-KUN...

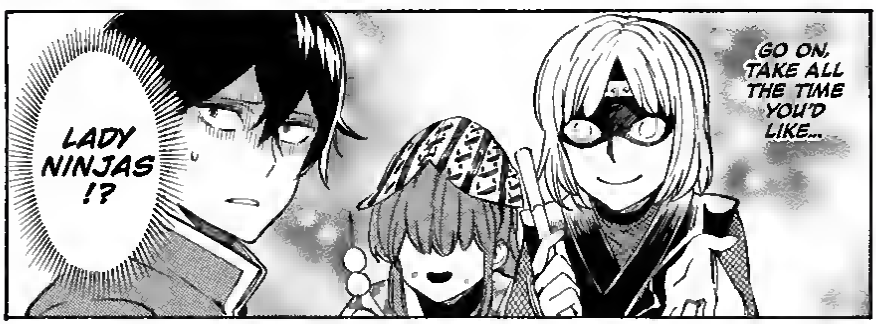
FLAG: PURIFICATION FONT

ALL MY GROUPMATES GAVE ME CRAP ABOUT IT, SAYING IT'D STAND OUT AND GET IN THE WAY.
YEAH, I HEAR YOU.
EVEN AFTER TAKING IT HOME, I'LL JUST END UP LOSING IT BEHIND THE DRESSER.


I EVEN BOUGHT ONE ON MY MIDDLE-SCHOOL CLASS TRIP.
OOH, A SWORD FIGHT!
HEH-HEH! I BOUGHT ONE IN GRADE SCHOOL TOO.
I WANTED TO GET STRONGER.
AND DID YOU BUY A SANSKRIT KEY HOLDER...
...ALSO PURELY IN PURSUIT OF STRENGTH?
YOU BET I DID!
OKAY, NEXT, WE'LL GO VIEW THE BRIDGE.

LANTERN: GUARD





BUT THEN, I'VE HAD BAD PREMONITIONS SINCE I GOT PUT IN HANDA'S GROUP...
MAN...
THE WHITE SHIRTS AND THE HANDA ARMY ARE AT EACH OTHERS' THROATS.
!
PRETTY TOUGH BEING IN THE GROUP OF A POPULAR GUY, ISN'T IT?
HEY, YOU'RE PRETTY NON-DESCRIPT YOURSELF.
THE WHITE SHIRTS' NON-DESCRIPT MEMBER!
HA-HA-HA! I HEAR YOU.
AND NONE OF THEM LISTEN TO A SINGLE WORD I SAY.
HONESTLY, I HAVEN'T HAD A MOMENT'S PEACE SINCE THE CLASS TRIP STARTED.

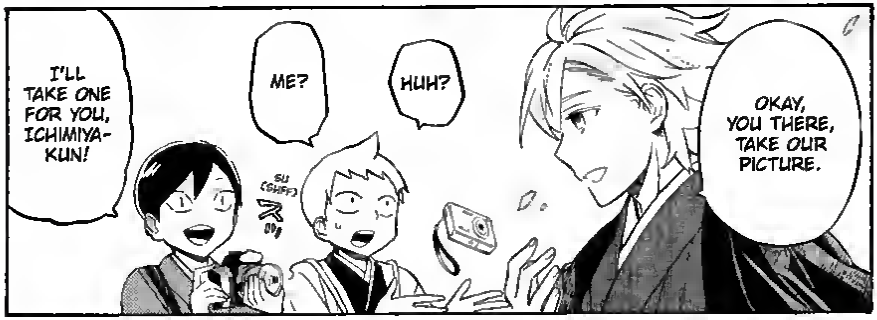
GUYS LIKE US...
HIS FACE IS PLAINER THAN MINE.
SO EVEN THAT BUNCH OF WEIRDOS HAS SOMEONE NORMAL AMONG THEM.
FEELS GREAT, DOESN'T IT?
...SUPPORT A SINGLE POPULAR PERSON FROM THE SHADOWS.
YOU COULD CALL HIM A WORK OF ART.
IN A WAY, ICHIMIYA-KUN IS SOMEONE WE'VE CONSTRUCTED.
EVEN THE POPULAR ICHIMIYA-KUN WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SHINE WITHOUT US THERE.
THIS GUY ISN'T NORMAL AT ALL...
DON'T YOU AGREE?
THE HECK...?

EH?
I... NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT THAT DEEPLY...
THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE HANDA ARMY!?
OUR PURPOSE IS TO MAKE THE LEAD ACTOR LOOK BETTER!
WE SERVE AS STEPPING-STONES.
SOMETIMES, WE CAUSE PROBLEMS...
...TO GIVE THE LEAD ACTOR A PLACE TO SHINE!!
ISN'T THAT OUR ROLE HERE!?
I DON'T FOLLOW...

OH, ICHI-MIYA-KUN!
I DON'T WANNA!
WHAA—!?
WELL, THIS IS WHERE WE MUST PART.
HE'S GOT GIRLS STREAMING AFTER HIM!
THAT'S OUR ICHIMIYA-KUN!
!?
A GUY JUST LIKE (THE IMAGE OF) HANDA-KUN...
HE'S GOOD-LOOKING, INTELLI-GENT, AND POPULAR.
...TAGGING ALONG WITH THE GROUP!?
IS HANDA-KUN...

WHEN OUR GROUP IS FIGHTING WITH THE WHITE SHIRTS, OUR (PRESUMED) LEADER, HANDA-KUN, CAN'T TAG ALONG WITH THEM, ALL SMILING!!
WHAT IS HE DOING!?
UM... COULD I GET A PICTURE OF US TOGETHER?
SURE, JUST SO...
...MY DEAR ORYOU.
KYAH!
YOU'RE RYOUMA TOO!?
KYAH!
PLEASE TAKE THIS.
IT'S CONFETTI CANDY.
I WANT A PHOTO TOO!
NOW THAT'S A MAN WHO GETS ALL THE GIRLS.
BUT HANDA-KUN SEEMS TO WANT HIS PICTURE WITH THE GUY TOO.
HE'S PROBABLY MISUNDER-STOOD THINGS.
SOWA (FIDGET)
そわ
そわ SOWA
IT'S LIKE HE'S CAPTIVATED BY RYOUMA-SAN.

ERASER
13°
ZU (SPIT)
ONE DOWN!
KYAH! HANDA-KUN!
EH?
WILL YOU REALLY?
HOW ABOUT A PHOTO FOR YOU TOO?


I'LL TAKE ONE FOR YOU, ICHIMIYA-KUN!
ME?
HUH?
SU (SHIFF)
OKAY, YOU THERE, TAKE OUR PICTURE.

OF ALL PEOPLE, WHY DID MY CAMERA GO TO THE GUY WHO HATES ME!?
HUH!?
KONDOU FROM MY GROUP?
OH DEAR...

YEAH, IT DOES FEEL LIKE HE'S MISUNDER-STOOD THINGS.
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
GRRR...
AND THEY ALL GOT TO BE THE ONLY ONES HAVING FUN WITH SHINSENGUMI COSPLAY, WHILE TRYING TO STICK ME WITH THE LORDLY LOOK.

COULD YOU LEND ME YOUR JACKET FOR A MOMENT?
EH?
SURE, I DON'T MIND.
SINCE I'M DRESSED LIKE THIS...
...YOU SHOULD BE DRESSED EQUIVALENTLY.
RIGHT, HANDA-KUN?
RYOUMA-SAN...
OKAY...
...IF YOU WOULD.
SURE, HERE I GO!

OKAY.
SAY "CHEESE!"
OH.
OKAY!
I TOOK A PIC TOO!

CHECK IT, ICHIMIYA-KUN.
YEAH, LOOKS GOOD.
SO RYOUMA-SAN...
...IS THAT GUY NAMED ICHIMIYA-KUN.
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF THE ACTORS HERE...
...BUT HE'S FROM THE SCHOOL WITH WHITE UNIFORMS.
HE CAME AND TALKED TO ME AT THE FORTUNE PLACE YESTERDAY TOO.
WHAT A NICE GUY.
IT'D BE SO MUCH FUN TO HAVE HIM AS GROUP LEADER...
WELL, SHALL WE BE GOING?
HANDA-KUN...
REALITY
I HAVE TO GO RETURN THE OUTFIT ABOUT NOW.
DO YOU MIND?
THE JACKET.

OW, OW, OW, OW!
GUI (TUG)
GUI
OKAY, LET'S GET THIS OFF OF YOU.
THAT HURTS! IS THIS GUY TRYING TO PULL MY HAIR OUT TOO!?
OKAY, I'LL MEET YOU BACK AT THE ENTRANCE!
SHEESH!
FUN
DAMN IT!
FUN (HIK)
THAT WAS MEAN!
DAN (STAMP)
DAN
HE STUCK IT IN HANDA-KUN'S HAIR AS HE PUT HIS HAND ON HIS SHOULDER.
A CANDY.. PAYBACK FOR THE ONE ON THE BULLET TRAIN?

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT CHAPTER OF HANDA-KUN!

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness, if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific

-sama: Conveys great respect, may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls, also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-sensei: A Japanese term of respect commonly used for teachers, but can also refer to doctors, writers, and artists.

Calligraphy: Japanese calligraphy has a long history and tradition, with roots stemming from ancient China. One of the traditions carried over was the Chinese expression of the "Four Treasures," which refers to the brush, ink, paper, and inkstone used in calligraphy. Traditionally, an inkstick—solidified ink—is ground against an inkstone filled with water in order to produce ink with which to write. This time consuming process helped to teach patience, which is important in the art of calligraphy. However, modern advances have developed a bottled liquid ink, commonly used by beginners and within the Japanese school system.

PAGE 1

Uzumasa Cinema Village: This refers to an actual place in Kyoto called Toei Uzumasa Movie Village (*Toei Uzumasa Eiga Mura*), which Toei Studios uses as a set for historical TV shows and films and theme park for people interested in the historical settings.

Very general historical overview (with bold terms appearing in the chapter)

The historical figures that the characters are cosplaying are from a time of unrest in Japan called the **Bakumatsu**. After Ieyasu Tokugawa took control of Japan as *shogun* (military ruler) in 1603, and the country had been ruled by a series of his descendants, with a series of laws that forced people into strict social castes and disallowed entry for foreigners, especially Europeans. The Bakumatsu has long been a popular setting for works of historical fiction, and more recent works have kept the time in the popular consciousness.

Shinsengumi: A group of masterless samurai in Kyoto that fought the patriots on behalf of the shogunate. Had very distinctive sky blue jackets with a jagged white trim pattern on the sleeves. Very popular in historical dramas.

PAGE 3

Katamori Matsudaira: Appointed as Protector of Kyoto during the Bakumatsu time, he made use of groups like the Shinsengumi among others to maintain order in the city and protect agents of the shogun.

Yoshinobu Tokugawa: The final shogun of the Tokugawa family line, which controlled Japan from 1603 to 1868.

PAGE 4

Isami Kondoo: Commander of the Shinsengumi.

Sooji Okita: Captain of the first unit of the Shinsengumi.

PAGE 5

Shinpachi Hegobura: Captain of the second unit of the Shinsengumi.

Kai Shimada: Vice captain of the Shinsengumi second unit.

Tashizau Hijikata: Vice-commander of the Shinsengumi.

PAGE 6

Exclusionist patriots: The term "*joui shishi*" means "patriots for expelling the foreigners", usually includes "*sonnou*" ("revere the emperor") before it, which is often rendered as "loyalist." Another common term for them was "*ishin shishi*," or "restoration patriots," where the focus was on restoring power to the Emperor instead of the shogun.

Ryouma: Ryouma Sakamoto was an important figure involved in many parts of the process of Japan opening to the world and changing its system of government during the Bakumatsu.

"Just so": Ryouma Sakamoto was originally from the Tosa region, now Kouchi, on the southern part of the island of Shikoku. The "just so" that the White Shirts are talking on to their sentences is originally "*zeyo*," an old Tosa dialect version of "*desu ka* (is that?)," which has become a trademark phrase for Ryouma as arguably the most famous person from Tosa.

"I will cleanse Japan, just so!": Seems to match a famous line by Ryouma, written in a letter to his sister.

PAGE 11

"defend our Emperor from foreign impurity": "*Sonnou Joui*" was the slogan used by the *Ishin* patriots and meant "Revere the Emperor, expel the foreigners."

"The dawn of Japan is near, just so!": Another Ryouma quote.

PAGE 12

mannequin-matching: "*Manekin-gari*" is a slang term for a person who buys the exact same complete outfit that is on a mannequin at a clothing store, rather than coming up with their own outfit coordinate.

PAGE 14

Harajuku: A center of fashion in Tokyo and home to numerous trendy boutiques.

PAGE 15

purification font: A *mitarashi* is a fountain or basin of water for washing one's hands (and rinsing out one's mouth) before entering a shrine.

Sanskrit key holder: A key holder with a Sanskrit syllable written on it in the Siddham script used for Buddhist sutras in Japan.

PAGE 16

lady ninjas: Hondo actually used a specific term for female ninjas, "*kunoichi*."

PAGE 17

fidelity: The flag shown is the flag that was used by the Shinsengumi.

PAGE 21

Oryoo: The name of Ryouma Sakamoto's wife.

Nanda-kun

Chapter 23

Satsuki Yoshino

Translation/Adaptation: Krista Shipley, Karie Shipley
Lettering: Lys Blakeslee

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